# SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES SEPTEBER 4, 2013 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Director Acton followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director Acton stated that adequate notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act had been given of this meeting and read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement.

On roll call, the following Freeholders were present: Deputy Director Cross, Freeholders Laury, Vanderslice, Ware, Bobbitt, and Director Acton. Freeholder Timberman arrived at 6:25 pm.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Joseph Hannagan, Veteran's Services Officer

The presentation outlined the overall responsibilities of the Veterans Services Officer and current projects.

### I. Veterans Cemetery

- a.) Researched surrounding area for space to increase the number of plots:
  - 1. Along Route 45 for an additional 600 plots.
  - 2. Small section coming in by the stream for an additional 400-500 sites. (being plotted now)
  - 3. Between North 3 and the County Home Cemetery 90 foot wide strip (nothing buried there) for an additional couple hundred sites.
- b.) Corrections Department provides lawn maintenance; they refurbished the benches at the cemetery; and are raising the sunken stones.
- c.) Corrections Department refurbished the cannon. The wheels are complete and will be picked up sometime within the next couple of weeks. A dedication will take place sometime this year to celebrate its 250<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.
- d.) Working on getting 6 new flag poles to represent all the services.
- e.) Plot allowance paid to the County to date by the Department of Veterans Affairs is \$49,000.

#### II. Assisting and Helping Veterans in Filing for Benefits

- a.) Received over 1,000 calls counseling Veterans and met with 350.
- b.) Working on 75 claims right now.

## III. Outreach

- a.) Speaks to organizations all over the county. (Rotary Clubs, Senior and Women's Clubs, Municipal Alliance get-togethers, nursing homes, Warner Accounting)
- b.) Attends Flag Burning Ceremonies, Veteran Day Ceremonies, Memorial Day Ceremonies and Veteran funeral services, Salem County Fair and Market Street Day.
- c.) Writes a Veterans Column in the South Jersey Times the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month.

Next week Mr. Hannagan will be attending the NACVSO training conference to receive national certification.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administration** - Director Acton reported labor counsel has been really working hard with negotiations. We are going into closed session to hopefully wrap four up. Thank everyone involved CFO Katie Colemen, Administrator Evern Ford and our labor counsel for their due diligence in getting this done. We are currently getting quotes for ungrade for IT. The Treasurers Office is working on the 2014 procedure.

**Public Service** - Freeholder Vanderslice reported there will be presentations for the IT Department upgrade in the next Admin Committee Meeting. Economic Development Council is busy creating ideas and developing a plan. NJ Economic Development Council to come and speak at the next meeting to try to coordinate efforts.

**Health** - Freeholder Bobbitt stated he had nothing to report. Rita Shade is doing an outstanding job as the Health Department, Department Head and appreciate her efforts.

**Public Safety** - Freeholder Cross reported we are back on two meetings a month. The jail with the influx of Gloucester County inmates is going extremely well. Have SCIA meeting and a wrap up of what was discussed at the Solid Waste Advisory Council will come to the Board. 911 Anniversary is coming up next week. The memorial ceremony will be Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in front of the OEM facility. Lois Myers retired after 42 years of service at the OEM.

**Transportation, Agriculture & Cultural Affairs** - Freeholder Ware reported we are moving to close the grant conditions which we received for Oldmans Trestle for \$3.5 million.

**Public Works** – Freeholder Laury will have more to report after the Public Works meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Bill Miller and Jeff Ridgway are doing a fantastic job and appreciate them both. Welcomed our new Safety Director Joe Odonald at the last meeting. Still in permitting stage as far as the Wawa. The Anthony property in Elmer is starting to move again. It's the first property in Salem County that open space money is being used for other than farmland preservation. The property will be used for a park for additional athletic fields. Almond Road will be starting any day. They will be repaving from Parvins Mill Road up to the county line toward Vineland. Willow Grove Lake is starting to move along. Pennoni is finishing up plans and we will be submitting them to DEP. Working on two grants right now:

- 1. Bicycle path in Fort Mott area.
- 2. Hook Road where it floods down by the pumps.

**Social Services** - Freeholder Timberman reported the Commission on Women meeting is this Tuesday September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at the Ware Building. Women Services is at 6:00. Commission on Women should be putting out the applications for the Women of Achievement. Board of Elections had a couple of extra tasks this year with the extra elections and they've done a good job.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF SALEM

Freeholder Timberman moved to enter into closed session to discuss personnel matters, with Deputy Director Cross seconding her motion. As there was no discussion, motion carried by hand vote 7/0 at 6:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Evern D. Ford Clerk of the Board

# SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES SEPTEMBER 4, 2013 6:34 PM

Present: Deputy Director Cross, Freeholders Laury, Vanderslice, Ware, Bobbitt, Timberman and Director Acton. Administrator Ford, CFO Coleman, Solictor Mulligan.

In the matter of Kris Alexander's title and position, the Board authorized the County Administrator to offer a counter proposal to the Union President.

County Counsel provided an update on the Saunderlin litigation.

In the matter of Miller vs. Salem County, the Board said to move forward with the court system to try the case.

CFO Coleman provided an explanation of the Memorandum of Agreements that are on tonight's Freeholder Meeting Agenda for adoption.

Freeholder Laury made a motion to come out of closed session and second by Deputy Director Cross. Motion carried by a hand vote of 7/0 at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Evern D. Ford Clerk of the Board